SOLIDARITY WITH AG CONCRETE STRIKERS

COURT ACTION AGAINST THE CNT-AIT
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE IWW & OTHERS

A BAD MAN MADE US DO IT

BLACK STAR

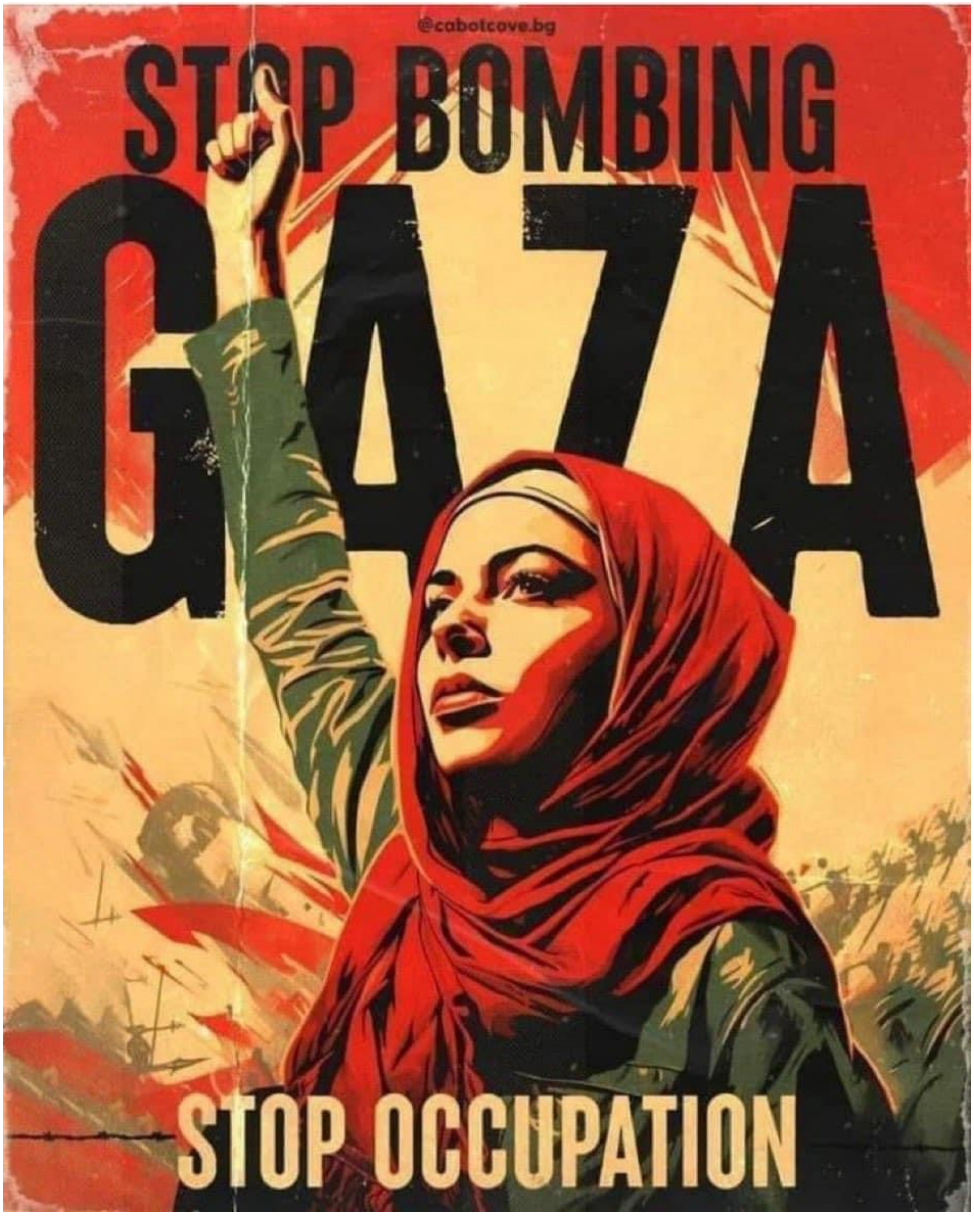
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

In this edition of *Black Star*, we publish an open letter to the Industrial Workers of the World (Ireland) and fellow anarchists, syndicalists and libertarian communists across the island. It concerns the outrageous attacks on our friends and comrades in the historic and valiant, Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo (CNT-AIT), which are about to culminate this month with so-called anarchists employing the Spanish courts to extort the working class assets of our struggle for revolutionary anarchist communism to prop up a reformist and class collaborationist strategy. The aim is to take over and sell off the buildings of the CNT-AIT, which are and have been centres of working class militancy for decades, in order to subsidise an autocratic and centralising, debt-ridden organisation. If successful, this case would complete a process of marginalisation and oppression begun over a century ago, but which even Franco couldn't manage.

'The time has come to break the silence so that the anarchist movement and anarcho-syndicalism around the world know the situation of the CNT adhered to the IWA'

CNT-AIT

GAZA and Everywhere Against War and Genocide!



Almost one year after the Hamas attack on the 7th October that provided the Israeli state the excuse for the latest stage of it's aggression against the inhabitants of Palestine the Ministry of Health in Gaza has published a 649 document with the name, age, gender and ID number of every Palestinian it has information on who have been killed in Gaza from that date until the 31st August 2024.

The first 14 pages contains the details of those under 1 year old. The Israeli state have bombed schools where refugees were sleeping, playgrounds children were playing in. They have bombed the beach. They have shot fishermen trying to fish. They have bombed all of Gaza's universities and 200 schools. Thousands have been imprisoned, tortured and disappeared. We have all seen images of body parts collected in plastic bags.

One year on and the ongoing atrocities committed by the state of Israel continue unabated - aided and abetted by governments including those of the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. With every death and their every breath 'our' politicians are more mealy mouthed and blood soaked than before.

For a long time it has been undeniable that there is out and out genocide being committed in Gaza. The numbers of dead given by the Ministry for Health in Gaza was below the total number of deaths then as it is now. They listed over 34 thousand dead. The real figure at the time of writing this is nearing 41,000. On the Israeli side there are approaching 1,500 dead.

Almost one year on we, along with countless millions across the world reiterate the demand for an end to the genocide being carried out by the state of Israel.

Meanwhile the ongoing war in Sudan has reached up to 150,000 dead. War trundles on in Ukraine with tens of thousands dead and while news sources seem to have lost interest in an overall body-count the cry is for escalation not peace.

Clashing imperialist interests and the pursuit of profit, territory and power are driving the world into greater and greater conflict and war. The power and profit will of course go to the already rich and powerful. Ordinary people will be increasingly encouraged, as ever, to kill each other, face the reality of becoming civilian casualties or join the masses of refugees fleeing death, disease and destitution.

The twin monstrosities of capital and state deliver war, terror, poverty, death and destruction across the globe. The rival factions vying to be top of the imperialist heap in our global capitalist system offer us more death. As we have said before the only possibility of salvation lies in the action of the vast majority of the world's population, the working class and in their struggles against war, oppression and exploitation.

No War But The Class War!

Stormont's Plan - Tough for Us

It should go without saying that we have no faith in Stormont to deliver anything more than cliches and cuts dressed up as 'tough choices' with the usual veneer of cross-party partnership. Nobody ever explains why the choices are 'tough' and who they are tough for. It's just one of those codes for saying they'll serve up the usual neo-liberal shite whilst complaining about having to do it.

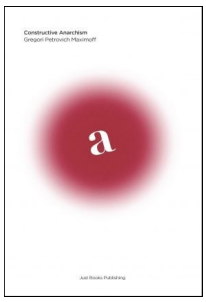
Their draft programme for government between now and 2027 has just been published and makes clear the direction of travel. Tourism and hospitality, that bastion of progressive pay and conditions for workers, will predictably benefit from increased investment from a new 'Skills Fund' and 'sub-regional' economic action plan. Over a billion is heading in that direction, much of it no doubt into the coffers of Invest NI to attract more McJobs into the North. Hospital waiting times are to be cut by moving to 'a model of care that is not purely focused on acute interventions', a model not many of us would recognise in the first place. Nothing of course on housing and poverty.

Concrete plant strike

At the start of this month, workers at the AG (Acheson & Glover) Concrete plant in Toomebridge entered their fifth week of strike action over a completely shite pay 'offer' of 2.5%. They remain out as we go to press. The plant makes pavers and flagstones and is based in Fivemiletown in County Tyrone. Last year saw the company's annual turnover rise by ten per cent to almost £30 million with pre-tax profits of £3.4 million. Workers have not taken strike action in a generation and have now done so backed by the GMB as a result of the derisory beneath inflation offer in a time of continuing rising costs and further 'a big boy made me do it' austerity measures Stormont have in store for us all.

Just Books Publishing

Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99

The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

ON THE TRIALS IN THE NATIONAL COURT AGAINST THE CNT-AIT

Next Thursday, September 19th, the trials against 16 unions of the CNT-AIT (IWA) begin as a consequence of the demands of the CNT-CIT (ILC), a union with which we formed a single organisation until less than 10 years ago. We will not go into the reasons for this situation, something we already did 3 years ago in a text entitled 'Against all odds '. Today our intention is to inform and point out some questions about the content and the meaning of the lawsuits.

The lawsuits seek to force us (from the State) to stop using 'the name National Confederation of Labour, the initials CNT, its distinctive signs [flags and logos] … and its emblem [Hercules fighting the Lion of Nemea]', with the argument that 'they are National Trademarks registered' (at the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office) in the name of the CNT-CIT. They accuse us of supplanting an identity that belongs to them and seek to confuse their potential affiliates by using their historical prestige. But the only certainty is that, of the two parties, the CNT-AIT is the only one that has always made it clear who it is and to which international it belongs (the International Workers' Association founded in 1922). The CNT-CIT, on the other hand, one could almost say that they deliberately hide it as a marketing strategy. Who is creating the confusion? The answer seems obvious to us.

Another point that we think is relevant in the lawsuits is their intention to judicially prevent us from making public what happened, their intolerable behaviour, their political manoeuvres and their corrupt practices. They intend to silence us by making use of the National Court, achieving by the force of the State what their lack of moral legitimacy has been unable to achieve.

As if this were not shameful enough, they are asking for €50,000 from each defendant union (a total of €800,000) for the alleged 'moral damages' caused, with the aim of stifling us financially.

It is clear that this lawsuit not only seeks to take away our name and identity, but to deny us what we have built up over more than a century and bury us under outrageous compensation payments. The argument of the alleged 'moral damages' is completely ridiculous, a punitive and dishonest strategy to achieve what they have been seeking for years. Our disappearance.

Once again, and in conclusion, we call on the entire membership of the ILC ashamed of the actions of its committees to put an end to this, and on the anarchist movement in general to come out of passivity and abandon equidistance.

Salute and Social Revolution.

Press and Propaganda Secretariat of the CNT-AIT on September 12, 2024

SOLIDARIDAD APOYO MUTUO FEDERALISMO ACCION DIRECTA
CNT AIT

Confederación Nacional del Trabajo
Asociación Internacional de los Trabajadores

Open letter to the IWW

Dear comrades (if you are that) on September 19th in the social chamber of the Spanish state's National Court (the heir to Franco's Public Order Tribunal) a trial will be held against 18 unions of the CNT-AIT. They have been taken to court by an organisation that defines itself asanarcho-syndicalist, and which the IWW in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England as well as North America stand in solidarity with in the same international – the International Confederation of Labour or ICL, in Spanish Confederación Internacional del Trabajo. That organisation is the CNT affiliated to the ICL, which by its actions and practice demonstrates the complete opposite of the ideals and praxis of anarcho-syndicalism.

As we are an anarcho-syndicalist organisation based in Ireland, this letter is primarily addressed to members of the IWW in Ireland.

In this lawsuit the CNT affiliated to the ICL are demanding that the CNT-AIT is ordered by the courts to "refrain from using the name 'Confederación Nacional del Trabajo', or the initials 'CNT' or its logo, whether in its premises and signs, publications, brochures, banners, union sections, Confederal Nuclei, websites, social networks or any support or means of communication to the public and to remove this name and acronym from all of them."

Each of these 18 CNT-AIT unions "shall be ordered to pay compensation for moral damages of fifty thousand euros, which would make a total of nine hundred thousand euros" or "alternatively the amount that the Court prudently [ha!] determines." So comrades of the IWW Ireland, to be clear, a section of your international is suing anarcho-syndicalists for close to one million Euros!

The quotes we have used are from the Confederal Nucleus of the CNT-AIT Navarre, and while our comrades from Navarre "hold all the unions of the CNT-ICL responsible for this complaint, some for agreeing with it and others for remaining impassive or looking the other way" in the face of this act of vengeance against their organisation, we hold the IWW WISERA of which IWW Ireland and all the other affiliates to the International Confederation of Labour responsible.

With our comrades in the CNT-AIT we will not forget "the organisations that define themselves as anarchists and that in the face of this trial… remain as silent as the dead." It is time for members of the IWW Ireland to speak out, to condemn the actions of their sibling organisation and demand that they cease this attack which utilises the repressive mechanisms of the state against the anarcho-syndicalists of the CNT-AIT. It is time to make clear where you stand on the indefensible actions of the CNT-ICL. Silence in the face of these attacks is complicity and will place you clearly on the side of the enemy.

Further, the CNT-ICL are hoping, while using the non-existent veil of 'legality' to cover the immorality of their actions, to seize the Local premises of many of the 18 unions being taken to court. They are using the court to evict militants of the CNT-AIT who self-manage Locals which act as important cultural and resource centres for the organisation and the working class communities they are based in. Members of Organise! and many others were hosted in one such Local in Alcoi during the last IWA Congress.

So what happens if the courts agree with the CNT-ICL that they, and not the people running and using these premises, 'own' them centrally? It seems clear, the comrades who actually run and maintain them will be evicted and the premises will be sold off in order to further swell the coffers of an increasingly centralised and authoritarian union organisation that can no longer be recognised as bearing any resemblance to an anarcho-syndicalist union. This, bluntly put is an attack on the working class in the pursuit of profit. It, along with the rest of this lawsuit is abhorrent.

It is clear that the CNT-ICL's objective is to make the CNT-AIT disappear, our comrades assure us that they are not going to succeed. They expect nothing from the State Courts who they recognise "do not like us, since we defend the Social Revolution and Anarchy and despite everything will remain faithful to our libertarian principles." We simply ask of the IWW members in Ireland, and of other anarchists who remain silent, where are your principles? Inaction now is a betrayal that will not be forgotten.

Long live the CNT-AIT

For workers control, social revolution and libertarian communism,

Organise! friends of the International Workers' Association

CNT-AIT Granada & SAT Stand Against Union Repression

MANIFESTACIÓN:
SOLIDARIDAD CON CASO FRANKFURT Y LXS 3 DEL SAT:
CASO FRANKFURT'S:
"LXS 3 DEL SAT":
Los acosadores quedan en numerosas ocasiones impunes
Cárcel por defender el derecho laboral en un claro acto de represión sindical.
CNT AIT GRANADA
JUEVES 5, 19:30 DESDE PLAZA DE BIB RAMBLA
sat Sindicato

On the 5th of September the CNT-AIT Granada and the Andalusian Workers' Union (SAT) held a demonstration against union repression in the city of Granada. Specifically denouncing the upcoming trials associated with the Frankfurt Case and for the SAT 3 in the city the demonstration remembered and expressed solidarity with the La Suiza 6 pointing out that this is what they intend to do with everyone.

In the Frankfurt Case a worker who accused her boss of sexual harassment and other CNT-AIT activists are facing 2 years in prison and a fine of 30,000 euros.

In the SAT 3 case the Andalusian Government is asking for 5 years in prison for a worker who was asking for her reinstatement along with imprisonment for 2 other union members for taking part in union activity.

The CNT-AIT Granada and SAT are demanding the acquittal of all the defendants in these political trials, and are asking all workers and all social movements to support the struggle against repression. They have pointed out the sexist and patriarchal nature of these cases. Remembering the case of the Suisse 6 they further point out that union repression affects us all and unity is demanded among those who suffer it.

Trade Unionism is not a crime! Anarcho-Syndicalism is not a crime!

Solidarity With La Suiza 6

The La Suiza 6 are members of the CNT-ICL who were fighting to improve their working conditions at the La Suiza pasty shop in Gijón. The struggle concerned not only unpaid overtime and holidays but also sexual harassment and the dismissal of a pregnant worker. During the dispute heavily policed demonstrations took place outside the bakery. The police did not intervene.

The bosses took the Suiza 6 to court claiming coercion and damages in what is a significant attack on the right of workers to organise across the Spanish state. In 2021 the 6 workers were sentenced to 3 and a half years in prison without parole and fined 125,428 Euros damages to be paid to the bosses!

An appeal to the Spanish Supreme Court in June upheld the sentence!

New Organise! Local In South Ulster

We are pleased to announce that Organise! have a new Local (in formation) in South Ulster. Membership is cross-border and covers Counties Armagh, Cavan and Monaghan. The new Local (in formation) the *South Ulster Anarcho-Syndicalist Network* has already been out supporting workers in struggle with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council and in support of Glen Dimplex workers in Portadown.

We look forward to including more news about our South Ulster comrades in future issues of Black Star. While they get their own email set up if you are in County Armagh, Cavan or Monaghan and would like to join them or support their activities get in touch via organiseasi@gmail.com.

Priama Akcia: Direct Action Against VegaNana

Priama Akcia, the Slovak section of the International Workers' Association is involved in a dispute in support of former workers at VegaNana vegan patisserie in Bratislava. The workers are demanding unpaid wages along with other financial claims totalling €17,252.30 .

Katarína Podhorová (the boss) and Alexandra Podhorová (the owner of the business license) are refusing to pay three former female employees who helped shape the fledgling vegan patisserie. The former employees Jana, Laura and Veronika are demanding payment of the amount owed to them and, together with the anarcho-syndicalist union have launched an ongoing campaign to secure payment.

H&W Under Attack

As we go to press workers at Harland and Wolff's historic shipyard found out today that the company are to enter administration for the second time in five years. It comes as a hammer blow to workers who have fought tirelessly for years against all manner of capitalist gangsters and right-wing governments to protect their livelihoods and a fast disappearing working class culture in the yards. The media story is that this is not the end of Harland and Wolff and 'only' means the loss of 'non-core' jobs at the company.

We have not forgotten that the only reason a buyer was found back in 2019 was because the workers staged a sit-in and their occupation of the workplace aroused a wave of solidarity that exerted maximum pressure on the powers that be. Unfortunately, the buyers currently showing an interest include one competitor and one consortium partner on the British navy contract. That contract to build three naval supply vessels was a result of the imbalance between the two big players in shipbuilding, BAE systems and Babcock International, and smaller Harland and Wolff yard.

Unsurprisingly perhaps, Babcock are one of the companies who have expressed an interest, no doubt hoping to gain an advantage on their other British rival, whilst the Spanish state-owned builder, Navantia, who is in on the naval ships deal, is the other potential buyer. These bastards would do well to remember that the shipyard workers are more than mere pawns in their corporate games, they will fight back when they're under attack and we will fight with them.

Meanwhile... in Ballymena

Not much news from Ballymena this weather. Ticky Gaston, who has featured here before campaigning for British trees in Northern Ireland, is off to Stormont to replace Jim Allister.

Ticky is already making headlines decrying the cost of interpreters employed by the NHS to help non-English speakers under treatment in our hospitals, the fuckin' dunderheid.

Meanwhile, Dee Coleman (pictured playing chasey with the cops on the Shankhill back in 2016), has been knocked back on a bail application to go to a wedding. At least the 'Romanian mafia' won't have to worry about someone muscling in on their Ballymena operation for a bit.

Nae fascist or anti-fascist protests here lately though I dandered along to the Coleraine protest the other week, which had a good wee crowd reminiscing about seeing off the National Front from the toon back in 1984—happy times—fuck the fash wherever they may be!

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which as affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have Locals in **Belfast** and **South Ulster** (covering Armagh, Monaghan and Cavan) and members in Cork, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, and Newtownabbey working towards the creation of new Locals. We are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com